

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 104992
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:PBSWWIERS

APPROVED BY:EUR:MPARRIS

S/S-O:DROBINSON

-----047130 250919Z /21

O 250821Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 6411

S E C R E T STATE 104992

EXDIS

TAGS: MARR, EAID, MT

FOLLOWING REPEAT USDOCOSOUTH 201946Z ACTION SECDEF, SECSTATE,
CJCS, AND CNO DATED APRIL 20, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE //NOOOOO//

EXDIS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECRETARY BROWN, ASSIST. SECRETARY VEST,
GENERAL BROWN AND ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY FROM ADMIRAL SHEAR.

MALTA (U)

1. (S) FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

QUOTE:

P 150904Z APR 78

FM USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

TO RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BE

RUFHLA /AMEMB VALLETTA MALTA

S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR //N00000//

EXDIS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR GEN HAIG AND AMB LAINGEN FROM ADM SHEAR

MALTA (U)

1. (S) HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF MALTA IN NAPLES, DI GIANNI,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 104992

CALLED ON ME TODAY (14 APR) AT HIS REQUEST. SALIENT EXTRACT FOL-
LOWS:

(A) DI GIANNI EXTENDED PERSONAL INVITATION TO ME FROM MINTOFF TO
COME TO MALTA FOR UNOFFICIAL VISIT AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. IF
THIS INFEASIBLE ROME OR A MORE QUIET PLACE SUGGESTED AS AN ALTERNA-
TIVE RENDEZVOUS POINT WHERE INFORMAL MEETING COULD PASS UNDETECTED
BY MEDIA.

(B) ACCORDING TO DI GIANNI, MINTOFF WISHES TO SOLICIT MY GENERAL VIEWS ON MALTA AND COUNSEL ON OPTIONS FOR MALTA FOLLOWING BRITISH WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION OF THE NATO SUBSIDY IN EARLY 1979. THE COMPELLING IMPERATIVE FOR MINTOFF IS THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEANS HAVE TO DATE PROVEN BARREN, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH, WHO DI GIANNI CONTENTS MINTOFF IS PREPARED TO "EXCLUDE" FROM THE ISLAND. DI GIANNI ADDED THAT MINTOFF IS PARTICULARLY DISENCHANTED WITH THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS RE POST-1979 AID.

(C) DI GIANNI NOTED THAT MINTOFF HAS NOT CHOSEN TO INVOKE A WIDE VARIETY OF "OTHER DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS" OPEN TO HIM TO RESOLVE MALTA'S FUTURE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. (COMMENT: WHILE DI GIANNI DID NOT AMPLIFY ON THIS CRYPTIC REFERENCE, THE IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR THAT THE CHANNELS WOULD NOT BE CONGENIAL ONES IN TERMS OF OUR INTERESTS, I.E. LIBYA, PERHAPS THE SOVIETS). DI GIANNI ALSO NOTED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF MALTESE WERE FIRMLY ORIENTED TO THE WEST.

(D) FINALLY DI GIANNI SAID HE WOULD BE IN MALTA ON 21 APR FOR A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REACTIONS TO THE FOREGOING SO HE COULD TRANSMIT THEM IN TURN TO MINTOFF.

2. (S) I GAVE DI GIANNI AN ASBESTOS GLOVE RESPONSE, THE ESSENCE OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

(A) AS RESPONSIBLE NATO COMMANDER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, I OBVIOUSLY AM AWARE OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF MALTA. IN THIS CONNECTION WE HOPE THAT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 104992

REACH MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 1979, A RESULT WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THE DESIRABLE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING THE SOVIETS.

(B) REGARDING THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION, I EMPHASIZED THAT I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT WITHOUT RECEIVING THE SANCTION, AT MINIMUM, OF MY MILITARY SUPERIOR, GENERAL HAIG, AND NATO CIVIL AUTHORITIES AT EVERE. I SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THAT SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED. I ALSO NOTED THAT I WAS EXCLUSIVELY A NATO MILITARY COMMANDER AND HAD NO MANDATE TO ENGAGE IN PURELY POLITICAL MATTERS. IN SUM, I APPLIED AS MUCH OF A COLD SHOULDER TO THE PROPOSED INVITATION AS CIVILITY WOULD PERMIT, LENDING ABSOLUTELY NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO DI GIANNI THAT THERE WAS PROFIT IN ANY FORM OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN MINTOFF AND MYSELF.

3. (S) COMMENT: DI GIANNI WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT, I BELIEVE, NOT SURPRISED WITH MY REMARKS. HE NOTED THAT A PARALLEL INVITATION SOME TWO YEARS AGO TO MY PREDECESSOR, STAN TURNER, HAD BEEN POLITELY DEFLECTED. WHILE I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO VERIFY DI GIANNI'S COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATUS (OR NON-STATUS) OF MINTOFF'S DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEANS, AND PARTICULARLY THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH, IT IS CLEAR THAT MINTOFF IS PULLING OUT ALL STOPS IN HIS QUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AS THE TIME COMPRESSES ON MARCH 1979. IN ANY EVENT, I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS OR GUIDANCE YOU MIGHT WISH TO

OFFER. I SUSPECT DI GIANNI WILL BE SEEKING ME OUT FURTHER ON HIS
RETURN FROM MALTA.

4. (U) WARM REGARDS.

GDS-86

UNQUOTE.

2. (U) WARM REGARDS.

GDS-86UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE104992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:PBSWWIERS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780176-0054
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780419/aaaaapqq.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 266cbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2854134
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINTOFF REQUESTS MEETING WITH USDOCOSOUTH
TAGS: MARR, EAID, MT, US, (SHEAR, HAROLD), (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/266cbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014